

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 7-10, 12-13, 15, 19, 21, 24 and 27 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4, 6, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22-23, 25 and 26 have been canceled without prejudice and disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claim 5 was canceled by prior amendment. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following amendments and remarks are requested.

Applicants appreciatively thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 7-10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 24 and 27 are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 7, 15, 17, 21 to be in independent form and include all of the limitations of their base claim.

Claim Rejection-35 USC §103

Claims 1-4, 6, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22-23 and 25-26 rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuwahara(US 6389288) and further in view of Jonsson (US 5903833) and Naiki (US 7039426).and Beamish(US 6694143). Claims 1-4, 6, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22-23 and 25-26 have been canceled. Thus, rendering the rejection moot with respect to these claims.

Applicants have rewritten independent claims 7, 15, 17, 21 to include all of the limitations of their base claim. Accordingly, based on the Examiner's indication of Allowability, claims 7, 15 17 and 21 are in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 8-10, 12-13 and 27 depend from claim 7. Dependent claim 19 depends from claim 17. Dependent claim 24 depends from claim 21. Therefore, dependent claims 8-10, 12-13, 19 and 24 are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-10, 12-13, 15, 19, 21, 24 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on a combination of Kuwahara, Jonsson, Nakai, and Beamish is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The applicant respectfully submits that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any unpaid fees deemed required in connection with this submission, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Dated: July 23, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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